



hack//g.u.+

5

Story by Tetsuya Nomura & Yoshinori Kitase By Yusuke Kishimoto

hack//G.U.+

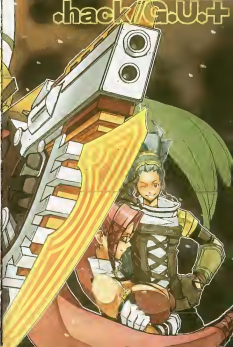
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hack//G.U.+
The Final Volume
The Final Volume

The dramatic and final volume of *hack//G.U.+* has finally arrived! Now, and the rest of the team manage to escape the now-extended *hack* god, *Novant*. However, shortly after the escape, *Novant* falls victim to The World's greatest threat yet: *Neo*. Now absorbed into *Neo*, *Novant* surely holds power as he begins the worst network upon the planet has ever faced. Even with *Neo* speaking as *hack*'s guide and guiding our heroes to the final showdown, they seem to be running out of hope... unless they get help from a familiar face!



0 000000 000000



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STORY SO FAR

In the year 2017, the massively multiplayer online game The World has become its most dangerous, with players killing other players. Haseo's friend Shino falls victim to one of these player killers and consequently falls into a coma. In order to save Shino, Haseo attempts to confront the legendary player killer Tri-Edge, Azure Flame Kite, only to be knocked unconscious by a Data Drain and rescued by two of the game's system administrators, Pi and Yata. Haseo is asked to join their organization, G.U., in order to hunt down AIDA.

When Haseo fails at defeating the AIDA-infected player Bordeaux, he is rescued by a member of G.U. named Kuhn, who reveals himself to be an Epitaph User with the power to summon an Avatar named Megus. Haseo learns that he too may possess such abilities. Then, when Haseo battles the AIDA-infected player Endrance, Haseo's mortal danger allows him to call upon the power he so desperately craves. It comes in the form of the Avatar called Skelth, the Terror of Death!

Haseo wins the battle—but it's another player who kills Endrance to acquire his Epitaph, or Morgenne Fector. Haseo confronts Azure Flame Kite, who he thinks killed Endrance, and defeats him. But afterward, Kuhn, Yata and Pi are all killed by the Tri-Edge's signature method! It's then that Haseo discovers the Tri-Edge he'd been searching for was Ovan, who had been working symbiotically with the AIDA to save his sister, Aina. Haseo's Terror of Death is the Key of Twilight Ovan has been searching for, and the Rebirth program is triggered. This leads to the Third Network Crisis and the destruction of Ovan, but also to the return of the Lost Ones—including Shino and Aina.

Now Kazumi, a member of the security administration, has put into action his plan to revive the Ultimate AI and transform himself into a god -- even if it means the end of all existence in The World...



Anna

The first person to be infected by Mr. AIDA. When Kuhn activated his Rebirth power, she regained consciousness.



Zeke

Childhood friend of Moon Tree. The first person to be given off 1. When Kuhn activated his Rebirth power, he regained consciousness and worked to restore the independence of public order.



Kazumi

Explored by CC Corp.'s Safety Division B. His stated goal is to restore stabilization to...



Selma

Harems of CC Corp. of the Twilight Division. She sacrificed her body for Moon and lost consciousness.



Kuhn

Former grandfather of Zeke. He was a member of Project G.U. but rebelled against Yata and left.



P2

A sharp and skilled Tribal Explorer. He is the leader of Project G.U. Yata's subordinates.



Yata

Head of Project G.U. at the largest. Anna he needed the investigation into the cause of the virus.



Atoll

A harvest cleric and member of the Moon Tree guild. He infected her with the virus, but he was saved from...



Atoll

The Harvest cleric known as Atoll. He infected her with the virus, but he was saved from...



Hurry!
We've got
to get to
the exit!

△ Root Town
Mac Anu

There
it is!



Cubiv's Gnomes!

Down...

Oh, come on!



Confusion
Flight!

Afoll-
chow!

Let's
hurry!

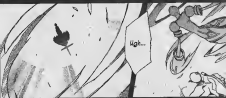
Heck!

















Aoooo~!!



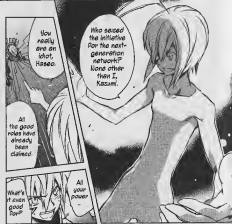
...your love for your god.

You must show...

Neither Heta nor Ovan could do what I've done.

...any kind of god!!

You're not...



You really are an idiot, Haseo.

Who seized the initiative for the next-generation network? None other than I, Kazumi.

All the good roles have already been claimed.

What's it even good for?

All your power.

Ah
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha!

The world will bow to my driving after.

Who knows?

I can do as I please.



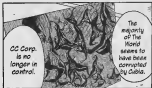




it can't be...

The anti-existence...

...Cubia?!





Now that The World has been cut off from the game system, the only way to access it is through hacking one of Tri-Edge's signs.



And right now, the only thing capable of fighting Gaea's Gnomes is



Gaea's propagation has placed an abnormal strain on the network.

I don't know how long it will be able to stand.



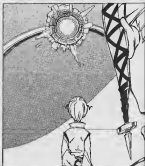
The Sitepoint of the Second Phase, the Village of Decet, once held by the player character Shino.

Oh...



...an Avatar.







Haseo-san!



How is it out there?

Cubie's
dominance
is far as
the eye
can see.



People in
the outside
world don't
know that
an online
game is
causing this
network
crisis.



The dot
hackers
seven
years ago
must have
found a
way to
defeat
Cubie.

Is there
no way to
eliminate
Cubie?!



But they
risked
their
lives in
battle.

There
was no
worldly
reason
for the
dot hac-
kers.

The
same
was true
shortly
ago.



Why are
all of you
willing to fight
Cybia?



For my what
my brother
did, and
for Kasumi-
san's
failure.

To take
responsi-
bility.



To save
people
in need.

To
protect
those
I care
about.



To
protect
The
World.

I won't just
stand by
and watch
while The
World goes
to hell.

And for
Owen's
sake...



...is the
desires
of its
players.

The one
real thing
in The
World...



And,
what's
that
book?

A
memento
of my
brother.

I found
it in that
villa room
where
I was
sleeping.

A tale of
travelers
questing
after a
Faint light.

The
Epitaph
of the
Twilight.

Courage

It's a story
of courage
slitting amid
even the
darkness
of despair

At twilight,
even though
the sun has
set, there
is still a
glimmer
of light.

And also
where the
story of
The World
began.

Let's
go.

To where your
story began,
Haseo-san.

Chapter 20: Point of Origin

*Halle Grand
Cathedral...*





Heh,
this place doesn't look
like it's been
corrupted by Ciel's
demons



By Tri-
Edge—
Over and
the ADOA
in his left
arm.

This is
where
Saino-
san was
PKed.



...made
his grave
error
and fell
into sin.

Where
my
brother
—



And this
is also
where
Haseo-
san's
story
began.

Is
Aino?

That seal
also looks
familiar.

If you think
the House B's
is its original,
you don't fit the
House Mikami's
strategy of
the Navigator.

How
could The
World's
story
begin
here too?

The story
begins
at this
cathedral.

...Navel
of Loka,
it's
called.

EPITAPH OF THE
WILDFIRE

Gabi is
said to be
an anti-
existence
with unbele-
vable power.

...about
the
history
of The
World.

What does
all of that
mean? He
said a plan
of attack
against
Gabi!

That's
why we're
think-
ing...

There
could be
power
from
Frank.

History
has
repeated
itself?

Seven years
ago, the
knight who
was involved
in the Shirotsu
12's birth also
faced a crisis
in the form
of Gabi.



Like the
Avatars, the
hero could
Data Drain.
In so doing,
he produced
Cubia.

What?

Before Aeneas
reached
maturity, she
extracted the
hero with an
item known as
the bracelet!

From
the main
hero
himself.



However,
in order to
use the Lost
Data, the
owner of the
bracelet was
required to
be the Right.



By
destroying...

...the
Bracelet.



So
then,
how did
they
beat
Cubia?

...we might
be able to
annihilate
Cubia too!

If that's the case,
if we destroy the
Dumey Factor
and Kazumi's PC
with its Pulse god
power that he
obtained through
the R.A. Plan...

In
destroying
the illegal
power with
their own
hands, they
annihilated
Cubia.

*Kazumi's still
alive—or rather,
he still exists in
The World?*

—got
annihilated
by Cubia
Itself?

But I
saw
him...

As long as Kazumi's
PC is inside Cubia,
he can neither die
nor be destroyed.



Because
of The World's
autonomy...

...my
brother...

...thought
he could
spin a new
tale by his
own hand.

...in order
to save
his sister
trapped
in The World...



Where is
Cubia's
real body?



You spun
the tale
of Skuro-
son's
rescue,
didn't you?

And...

It's like
what
you did,
Ryou...I
mean,
Haseo-
son.

Hey!



And that story, was it something you found in the manual or in a strategy guide?

HEHEHEHE

Over...

Which way should I go?

How might you think that I was created in your story.

When we were in the Brigade, what did you use as a guide during times like these?

So to speak.

Prayer.

Such things speak to the minds of players.

An appeal to God.



...I'm going to
the
apocalypse





Cubie's Bomber!

Inniet!

dash

Bang!





How can this be?!



Is it all over...

... For The World?

Hgh!



Such
are the
require-
ments of
an oracle.



Desires
strong
enough to
restrain
those of
others.

A tale is
spun by
strong
desires.





If The World
disappears



Pl!
Kahen!

What
then...?



...I'll never
be able
to see my
brother
again!



...the one
with the
strongest
will of
all is...



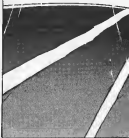
And right
now...



Set to return,
the shadowed one,
who quests for the
Twilight Dragon.



Never to return,
the shadowed one,
who quests for the
Twilight Dragon.







The hero
seven years
ago...

His name
was *Kite*.



Kito





A Data Drain!!





The AI pursuing
the ASMA-infected
Evan...

Azure
Flame
Life.



It's an
artificial
MPC set to
detect and
eliminate
anomalous
elements
From The
World.

The last
remaining
knight
of the
system
known as
Aura.

Or are
you
Aura?

Aura...



She possesses a deep familiarity with the secrets of The World's priestess, you might call her.

...is one who has been touched not only by the Foreign gods the AIDA but also by the creator Harald's sanctus sanctorum.

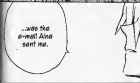
Aina...



This story...



...is of a girl who was spirited away and is searching another world for her fallen brother.



...was the e-mail Aika sent me.



What brought me back to The World...



We've
been shown
the way.



Chapter 21: The Shadowed One



Our
prayers
have been
answered.



The
way we
should
go.



Flash of Green!

Stake
of
Death!

Are you
guys...?

.....



Were we
being
con-
trolled?

My
Marginal
Factor
responded
to me!

No...my
Avatar...





Was this
what she's doing?
Aina's?



?!
What's that?!

It's
coming
from
outside!



The
vagrant
AI,
Tartarga.

Also
known
as Net
Slam.



Now!



Look at
that city
on its
back!

Hot Sun?
This giant
turtle is
Hot Sun?



I warned them
that if they
Ranched The
World's servers
to crash, then
Cuba would
move outside.

I spoke
with CC
Corp's
senior
man-
age-
ment.



Yeta-
sama!



Thanks
for all
the hard
work,
Yeta-
sama.

...but
must

To deal
with the
anti-
existence...

Physical
destruction
simply
won't
wipe
out
any
hope
we
had
of a
solution.



...annihilate
Cubia From
within the
story of the
game that
is The
World.



He must
follow
prece-
dent.





Since Kazumi
Failed,
were you
reinstated
to G.U.P?

Yata
...



I'm
not a
small
boy
now.

It's
the return
of Wiseman,
the sage who
supported
the hero Rito
seven years
ago, right?



Net
Slam's
star is
back.



Even
in this
guise,
I'm
happy to
see you,
Aur.





The
ape asks,
"What clings
to you?"
Bear it--you
cannot.
Accept it--
you cannot."

Over
the Keel
Mountains
...

"Masks
on ape
with
human
speech."

"But
hidden--
it is from
you."

"Recite its
name."

Ma?





*Clings
to me.*

*My
other
self.*

*Impos-
sible to
accept...*

*...but
indivis-
ible...*



Come!



My
shad-
ow...



*Come
to me!*

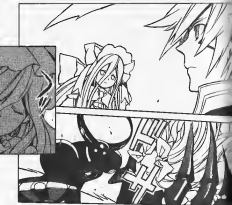


Here
I am

Skee-ith!



*Ryou
Misaki,
reporting
for duty!*





You
smell
like my
brother.



...
Haseo-
sen.





A small girl with pigtails and a headband is looking up at a large, dark figure whose face is partially visible on the right side of the panel.

Atoil
sought
out Moon
Tree's
ideals.



A close-up of a boy with light-colored hair, looking down with a serious expression.

I feel
like we've
all been
searching
for the
light.



A close-up of a girl with pigtails, looking forward with a slight smile.

Yes.



A boy in a military-style uniform with a high collar and epaulettes is looking forward.

Me,
for
glory.

To be
the hero
who would
save the
world.



A man with a shaved head and a high-collared uniform is looking forward.

In pursuit
of the
dazzling
truth that
is Aura.



A girl in a long, flowing dress with a large brooch is looking forward.

So that
the flicker
of my
brother's
dying wish
wasn't ex-
tinguished.



To save
her from the
darkness that
was the AIDA
and Owen.

For the
light that
was Shino.



This
Avatar
is the
shadow
cast from
my heart.



...is a
shadow.

But
in my
heart
—

...of
from
myself.

...from the
terror of
Death...

I won't
look
away...



And then
destroy
Kabani's PC
inside Cubel!



Our
priority is
to keep The
World itself
safe.

We have
to protect
the story's
stage and
its narrator,
Aina.



The
*Epitaph
of the
Twilight*
is an in-
complete
epic.



We're all
characters in
its Aina.



If Over's
mind is
still here
somewhere
in The
World...



...Is
what the
narrator,
Aina,
wants.

...Then a
reunion
with
Over...

The
perfect
happy
ending.







That's
amazing.
Haseo!
How
did you
know?



Ash!



Just a
hunch.



Let's
go!



To
Cubia's
main
body!

Chapter 22: Foreboding







The World
has a history
after all!

Remember, this
isn't an easy
strategy guide.

That just
means...

...Cubie's
main body
has been
dragged to
a place
where we can
deal with it.



Now
stand
p

So far, I've
been a bit
lazier than
I should be.



An
inserted,
untouch-
able
domain

Aine-chan's
wish to see
her brother
is what
bridged this
gap.



...the data
written in the
mind of the net
was first able
to dynamically
influence it
through the
medium of
a story.

Because
of The
World's
autonomy...

OVER

We're
counting
on you.

All right,
Haseo—
can?

Let's
go get
Cubiel!

Hehe...I
just
want
you
to
lead
it
to
me.

A kid with a
huge scythe,
a bulge
with a Lolita
complex, and
a cursed
pamper...

Leave
Aina's—

—or rather,
Aina's—
protection
to me.



It's like
sailing
downward
into the
underworld

The
sure it
feels like
being going
down for a
while now.



Once we
do that,
Cable's
toast.

We'll rip that
jerkass
Kazumi right
out of Cable's
stomach and
then crush his
PC and the
Dawning Factor
into dust.



What's
your
plan?



... is to
summon
that
legend
god of
the

The only
way to
save
Kazumi
now that
he's a
Lost
One...

I'm not
sure how
crushing
him into
dust is
going to
help.

That's
beginning
to sound
like a
slacker
Pick...



All
right!

As if
that even
needed
saying

Now
then...

Time for
us to
get to
work.





He strives
to be a
hero...

...he's still
just a kid
who hasn't
made
good on
his dream
to become
a hero.

...but he was
powerless
and only
became
a victim.

Even
seven
years
later...

...there
were other
Lost Ones
saved by
the hero
fita beyond
the original
six.

One of
them was a
certain high
school boy.

is on,
essai!

Ata-
chan...

Nat
Ma'na
all
going!

Seven
years
ago...



...the man
in charge of
Project G.U.,
the plan to bring
back the ultimate
AI Aene, had
a sister.

Two
years
ago...



She had a deep
admiration for
her brother. When
she heard he had
quit CC Corp. and
disappeared, she
refused to believe it.

In order to
learn the
truth about
her brother,
she too threw
herself into
Project G.U.

San Bangoya
must have
foreseen the
emergence of
this Cubie and
tried to stop
the R.A. Plan
by himself.



Stake of Death

PI!



By my will...

By my will...



...my wish
shall be
Fulfilled!



That's
all in the
past.

But
now...







This is our one
chance to let
our dreams
shine through!



He must
not take
our eyes
away from
the present
moment.

From
neither
love nor
battle.



There's a girl
I like who won't
reciprocate my
feelings. Why?

Tell me,
Pi.



...and I told
her I'd try
again when
I'd become
worthy.

I was all
flustered and
awkward...



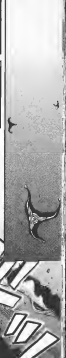
Is it
because
I'm not
confident
enough?



You must
have *gotta*
confidence,
if you
think she's
gonna wait
until then.

And
when will
that be?





Chapter 23: Marching on the Brink



Chapter 23: Marching on the Brink



THIRD NETWORK CRISIS



...but
I wasn't
able to do
anything
for you.

You
saved
me...



So,
you're
sure
you'll
find
him,
right?





*I
don't
like
being
hurt.*



Over...

*It's
not
fair.*

*This empty
feeling in
my heart is
all you've
left me.*



*But even
more
than that,
I hate
hurting
someone
I care
about.*



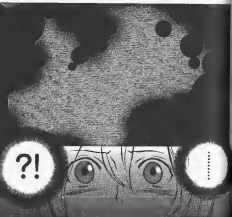
Over...



Over...









I hope
Pi-san
and
Kahn-
san...



We've
just gotta
have Faith
in them.



If
we can't
annihilate
Cubia,
then
what?

That
would
suck.

If... now,
this is just
hypothesis-
not, but...

Um...



...



But it wouldn't seem real to anyone.

I know what you mean.

No. What we're stopping is a digital disaster on a worldwide scale.

This doesn't seem real somehow.

Not if that were all Cubis wanted, I'd be helping it.

World Corp. banking?



You know better. You've got an Avatar now.



I'm gonna protect The World.

Even if it is just a game.

...the danger is real.



...Over,
you
bastard.

Just
you
watch...



Cable is
revelously
eroding The
World's data
domain.



The strain of
the increasing
traffic burden is
rapidly spreading
throughout the
entire network.



If The World
is consumed
by Cable, the
results will be
catastrophic.

Aura...

...won't
let that
happen.



Even if we
destroyed his
game smash
there's no
guarantee
we'd be safe.





Hard to
starboard.

The
residents
of Net Blue
don't give
up without
a fight.

It's
pitch
black.

I can't
see
anything.



I guess you can
just put down the
controller and take
off your goggles.

If
you're
afraid...



You don't
have to
try and
act cool.



It's not
like we're
heroes or
anything.







Because
deep down,
we were
the same.

I figured
you'd
understand.

You've
gone
through
a lot of
hard
things,
haven't
you?

.....



But that's
why I want to
protect The
World, where
I met you.



I know
that you're
a nice guy.



And I don't
care if I'm
the only
one who
believes it.

Atoli...

?!
KIRI

Ahhh!

Queen...

!!





Chapter 24: The Visitor





It's bigger
than
before!

Eeko!







...on its
head?!

is
Kazumi



*Ticking
Death!*



No
Flipping
way.





GUT-OO-ROO!

Flash

*Azure
Flame
Tiger
Claws!*



Until Haseo
and the
others
annihilate
Cubia...



Not
bad!



...and until
Ovan is
safe...







*...The
World?*

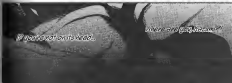
*Is it
impossible
for me to
protect...*

*My
allies?*

*Even just
Atoli?*

No...

I'll
protect
them!



If you want to be dead...

...then you got to know



Perhaps
it isn't a
question of *where*...

...but of
how.



If Cuba
is Kazu-
san's
shadow...

...but

...perhaps
you can
do what
you did to
save my
char-
acter.





KABOOM!!!

I'll ask
your
heart.

Bansuoya-san.

That's merely the process.

What?

To resurrect the ultimate AI, Aeneas...

...and obtain the power to load the next-generation network!

Kasumi-kun.

Tell me, what's the significance of Project G.U.P?

It's so that we never again face a network crisis.

That's what G.U. is for.

It's significant because our ideas

There's no future in a technology that has no heart in it.

Yes, sir!



This is Kozumi-san's post?

Even your letter comes in contact with wireless, you can leave records.



Back, the one who was in charge of the original G.U. two years ago.

Bonyou-san is Pi-san's brother, isn't he?



Can't you see those flowers?

Senior management's plan failed



If Cube breaks down...

...The World will be completely lost! So even if it means my life...

The dummy Factor was a success!



Although we can't contact the super-mass again!



*Don't
betray me!*

*Our ideas
require
sacrifices*



*Don't
abandon
me!*



*There
you
are!*



Is this
the truth in
your heart
of hearts,
Kazumi?

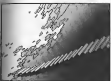
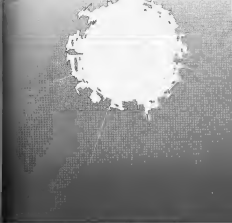
The
Pre...



To prevent
Cubia and the
network crisis,
Bansyoga
burned it all.
But all Kazumi
was concerned
about was the
dummy Factor!







.....
91







Chapter 23: Anti-Existence





The
Dumpty
Factor!



Then it'll
all be
over!

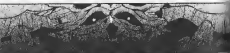


I'll
smash
it to
bits!



?!







High



Are you
bride to
what you've
become?

It's not of
my doing,
I've gone
to complete
the
mission
I've been
given.

What?

*...the
R.A.
Plan!*

*...accom-
plish...*

I will...



*No! Even
Cubie will
obey me!*



*I
accom-
plished it!*

*You've been
taken
by Cubie,
your own
shadow.*



*We punish
you.*

*If you don't have
faith in us...*

*Chaos
Gehenna!*



What
the...?!

My
memories...

My PC
Haseo...

SS+oooooooo!!









Yo.





Who
are you,
anyway?



*You ate
through
Cubia?*

Like
a worm
through
an apple.



Over...?

Don't
go saying
anything
cliché like,
"You're
alive?"



...is
thanks to
the AIDA.

The reason
I'm here...



However,
the Corbark
element, the
source of
the Rebirth
program
itself, was
infected.

It seems
that the Tri-
Edge AIDA
alone was
spared.

As
you're aware,
when Rebirth
triggered,
it deleted
the AIDA.



The Tri-Edge AIDA, along with the operators of the Over player character, were whisked away to an unknown region.

The AIDA weren't completely destroyed?!

Having lost track of the mind of the man known as Masato Inaba both online and

...it seems that the Tri-Edge AIDA got offline... Frozen within a void, cut off from the rest of the network, absent even of the infected data

...and I ended back to the World.

When Cubie's size increased so quickly, I was dug up from the depths of hell...

How is that possible?

It's thanks to Cubie.





*I'm
the one
control-
ling this
story!*



*It
looks to
me like
you've
been de-
voured.*



*...and
you shall
have your
heart's
desire!*

*Obey
me...*

*This
body
is my
ideal!*

*My
heart's
desire?*



What's in
my heart,
crazy as
it seems...

You have
nothing that
I want.

...is the one
who still lovingly
calls me "Ovan"
despite being
reduced to
this state.











What?!

A black and white manga-style illustration. A character with spiky hair, wearing a dark jacket with a high collar and a headband, is shown in a dynamic, low-angle pose. The character's mouth is open as if shouting or exerting effort. The background consists of architectural elements like beams and a circular structure. A large, dark, teardrop-shaped object is in the foreground. The text "Shadowy Death!" is written in a stylized font within a circular, sunburst-like area in the upper right.

*Shadowy
Death!*

Chapter 26: Reunion



How
did
you
—PI

How...

You're
total...

—contra-
diction.









I
can't
tell

.....



The
World's
higher-
dimensional
being--

--its
autonomy--
is once
again
adjusting
The World.



still



Haaa.



A tuner
does not
play songs

Yet
Aura still
protects
this world





How thick
this is just
a game?



For
someone I've
never even
met face
to face...

A year
ago I'd
never seen
your face
before.

...how dare
you make
my heart...









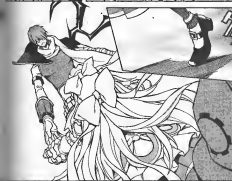
Because
of us,
so many
people
--!



...about
any of
that.

Don't
worry...









But senior management got hold of the Dummy Factor and pushed the experiment forward anyway.

So he kidnaped one of the Factors to prevent the R.A. Plan.

Banshoye-san was afraid that Cuba would emerge.



Why I made my future character and—!

That's why...



I could only think that Banshoye-san was so afraid of failure that he abandoned our ideals and burned it all.

That fire was caused by the experiment's failure.

But...I...



Yes.

What's
happening
with
Racism?

What
about
Cuba?

What's
the
original
pitape?

What
about the
AIDA?
Didn't we
exter-
minate
them?

Where's
Oven?

Or the
Escape
Door at
the Terror
of Death?

What
happened
to Anna?

That's
all you
have to
report?

The risks
involved
will be
controlled
not
deleted

That even
includes
gene



Are you
willing to
deal with
the conse-
quences?

Now then,
attempting to
do anything
to Open at
present would
prove a rather
high risk.



The effort
to reopen
The World...

.....

...is
over.



Yeah.

But the
one who
saved the
Lost Ones
was also
Ovan-san.



It's not
Ovan-san's
fault that
the AIDA
appeared
in the first
place.

Without
Rebirth,
the AIDA
couldn't
have been
destroyed.



About
this whole
crisis...

The culprit
behind the Lost
Ones was Ovan,
and the weapon
that stole
the players'
consciousness
was the
AIDA virus.



...he was
able to
control the
risk known
as AIDA.

In the
end...



Calzone...
Who the
hell is he?

They
seem
to be
getting
along.





That way...
I might
be able
to forget
how much
I hated
myself.

But
now I
want to
be an
adult.



It must
be nice to
be a kid.



They're
like a
letter to
our future
selves.



Why? Even
if you could
forget, it
would just
lead to you
repeating
the same
mistake.



Memories...

A
letter?



Telling her
to come and
find you.

How sent
an e-mail
to Aina,
didn't
you?



Perhaps.

Or it could
have been
the impure
attachment to
the world that I
left behind that
informed her.



Yes.

I heard
about
that from
Aina.

In the real
world, Masato
Indou died.

...Who
are you,
Over?

Autonomy,
 huh?



Who found
my body,
even though
I lived as
a secluded
hacker,
and who
created
me?

Is there
any proof
that the
one who got
cremated
was Masato
Indo?



Who?

But did
anyone
go to the
funeral?



That naive
honesty
of yours
will make
you believe
anything.



I'm just
speaking
hypo-
theti-
cally.

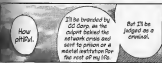
Are
you
seri-
ous?



It doesn't
either way, matter.
I'm not
interested
in a real
body
anymore.



So,
what
is it?





Then
that's
all there
is to it.

If you
waffle on
this, you'll
make Aina
worry.



But I
can't lie
about
this
story.



Brother



Brother!
I'm having
Zelkover-
kan hold
on to the
book.

Is
that
all
right?



Yeah.
That
sounds
best.



Will you
return your
Epitaph to
The World?









Haseo-san!

WASP



...will you
grab my hand
and lead
me back?



'If I get
lost
again...



All
you have
to do is
peek into
my heart.

You
want to
know for
sure the
answer
to that?





...No
thanks.

The heart is
the scariest
place of all.





END

It is such hot .hack // CyberConnect2 Kinshi Matsuyama



Is this
that stupid
Hagbani's
doing?

Heard...
I hear a
spluttering
breathless.



Heard? I
can't hear
them when off

Who's
that
little
punk
over
there?!



A name is
coming to
mind all of
a sudden...
The name...

What's
going
on?!



Chug
a
chug!
On to
Link!!

Don't
lose

ON THE FINAL VOLUME OF .HACK//G.U.+

I'M NOT USUALLY THE TYPE TO REREAD MY OWN WORKS. IT'S JUST MY PERSONALITY. BUT WITH SERIALIZED STORIES, WHEN HANDLING THE COMPILED VOLUMES, I HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE THEM TO THE ROUGH DRAFTS. WHEN I LOOK BACK AT G.U.+, I HONESTLY MARVEL ABOUT WHERE SOME OF THE SCRIPT CAME FROM.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS MANGA'S SPANNED FOUR YEARS NOW, FROM DRAFTING THE FIRST CHAPTER TO THE PUBLICATION OF THIS VOLUME. IF YOU CONSIDER THAT THE .HACK SERIES IS AIMED AT A CORE DEMOGRAPHIC OF FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLDS, OUR CORE AUDIENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST FINISHING MIDDLE SCHOOL WHEN WE STARTED SERIALIZATION. BUT BY NOW THEY'VE ALL GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL. ALL YOU READERS WHO STARTED OFF AS BOYS AND GIRLS ARE YOUNG ADULTS NOW. WE PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE MANGA ABOUT A YEAR AGO, BUT IN RETROSPECT, FIVE YEARS HAVE GONE BY SINCE I HANDLED THE GAME VERSION. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF COURSE THAT I SHOULD LOOK BACK ON G.U.+ WITH NOSTALGIA. EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT HAS ALREADY MOVED ON TO THEIR NEXT WORK, AND IN SOME CASES THE WORK AFTER THAT.

REGARDLESS, I WAS ABLE TO SOMEHOW COMFORTABLY KEEP UP WITH THIS MANGA. THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I FOUND SO MANY ASPECTS IF IT INTRIGUING.

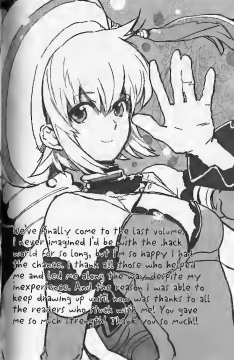
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

—TATSUYA HAMAZAKI, MARCH 2009



I'm honored to have been a part of
the hack project where I was able
to have so many valuable experiences
and meet so many wonderful
people. Thank you all so much!

~~Yusaku~~
Yusaku Morita



We've finally come to the last volume.
I never imagined I'd be with the hack
world for so long, but I'm so happy I had
the chance. I thank all those who helped
me and led me along the way despite my
inexperience. And the reason I was able to
keep drawing up until now was thanks to all
the readers who stuck with me! You gave
me so much strength! Thank you so much!!